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OSA Items for Inclusion in the DD/S&T Contribution
to the Agency Briefing for the Incoming Administration.

- I. The JACKSON Agreement
- II. The TACKLE Agreement
- III. OXCART, [REDACTED]

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III. OX CART [REDACTED]

Development of a Supersonic
Reconnaissance Aircraft;
Termination of the Program.

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In 1959, Presidential go-ahead was obtained to proceed with development of a successor reconnaissance aircraft to the U-2. Designated the A-12, the aircraft made its first flight in April 1962. The A-12 was designed to fly at Mach 3.2 (2,000 mph) at extremely high altitudes. It achieved a top speed of Mach 3.29 and an altitude of 90,000 feet. Thirteen A-12's were procured from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. Development, flight test, and training flying was conducted at a remote base in the [REDACTED]. The A-12's were declared operationally ready in December 1965. In May 1967, the President directed their deployment to the Far East to conduct reconnaissance [REDACTED].

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In December 1966, a budgetary decision was made by the President to phase-out the A-12 by the end of 1967. Operational commitment in 1967 resulted in extensions of the program through 30 June 1968. In May 1968, the President reaffirmed the decision to terminate the program. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Note: The YF-12A and SR-71 are follow-on versions of the A-12.

The program was unique in that it trail-blazed the path to Mach 3.2 supersonic flight in the minimum amount of time and in almost total secrecy.